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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/723,119

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Amit Raikar

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EXAMINER

HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2136

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/19/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/723,119	Applicant(s) RAIKAR ET AL.	
	Examiner BRANDON S. HOFFMAN	Art Unit 2136	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-24 are pending in this office action.
2. Applicant's arguments, filed January 24, 2008, have been considered and are persuasive. However, a new ground of rejection is made.

Claim Rejections

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 1-4, 20, 21, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a/e) as being anticipated by Lineman et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0065942).

Regarding claim 1, Lineman et al. teaches a method/computer system comprising:

- Describing a plurality of password policies in a computer usable password policy data structure (fig. 6A and 6B);
- Accessing said computer usable password policy data structure by a password policy enforcement agent (paragraph 0083); and
- Enforcing at least one of said plurality of password policies described within said password policy data structure by said password policy enforcement agent (paragraph 0095).

Regarding claim 20, Lineman et al. teaches **instructions on a computer usable medium wherein the instructions when executed cause a computer system to perform a method of establishing a consistent password policy, said method comprising:**

- **Describing a plurality of password policies in a computer usable password policy data structure** (fig. 6A and 6B);
- **Providing an access point with access to said computer usable password policy data structure** (paragraph 0083); and
- **Receiving feedback from a password policy enforcement agent associated with said access point about which of said plurality of password policies have been successfully enforced** (paragraph 0095 and fig. 2, ref. num 84).

Regarding claim 23, Lineman et al. teaches a method/computer system comprising:

- Computer usable media comprising computer usable instructions that when executed on a processor of said first server computer implement a method of establishing a consistent password policy, said method comprising (fig. 6A and 6B):
- Accessing a computer usable password policy data structure by a password policy enforcement agent (paragraph 0083); and
- Enforcing a password policy described within said password policy data structure by said password policy enforcement agent (paragraph 0095).

Regarding claims 2 and 21, Lineman et al. teaches wherein said computer usable password policy data structure comprises a file structure compatible with extensible markup language (fig. 6A and 6B).

Regarding claim 3, Lineman et al. teaches wherein said password policy enforcement agent is operable on a client computer of a client-server computer system (paragraph 0030 and fig. 1, ref. num 28).

Regarding claims 4 and 24, Lineman et al. teaches **wherein said method is** operable on a utility data center (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 5, Lineman et al. teaches further comprising validating said computer usable password policy data structure for authenticity by said password policy enforcement agent (paragraph 0091).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lineman et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0065942) in view of Cole et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0161707).

Regarding claim 19, Lineman et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 1, above. However, Lineman et al. does not teach further comprising providing, by said password policy enforcement agent, feedback to a configuration and aggregation point, about which of said plurality of password policies have been successfully enforced.

Cole et al. teaches further comprising providing, by said password policy enforcement agent, feedback to a configuration and aggregation point, about which of said plurality of password policies have been successfully enforced (paragraph 0083).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine providing feedback for successful enforcement, as taught by Cole et al., with the method of Lineman et al. It would have been obvious for

such modifications because feedback informs the user/administrator that the policy being enforced is working.

Claims 5-18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lineman et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0065942) in view of Password Policy of eRA (referred to as Password Policy hereinafter).

Regarding claims 5-18 and 22, Lineman et al. teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 20, above. However, Lineman et al. does not teach specific policy types.

Password Policy teaches comprising a computer access password policy parameter selected from the set of computer access password policy parameters comprising: a threshold parameter for unsuccessful access attempts that when exceeded disables a computer system access account; a parameter indicating the a time duration within which said threshold parameter number of unsuccessful access attempts triggers locking of a computer system access account; an initial delay parameter to block access to a computer system access account for a period of time after an unsuccessful access attempt; a minimum password length parameter; a maximum password length parameter; a parameter to prohibit passwords consisting of a natural language word; a parameter to prohibit passwords consisting of a palindrome; a parameter to prohibit passwords consisting of a derivative of a computer system account name; a parameter to automatically generate a password; a parameter to

automatically generate a pronounceable password consistent with all of said plurality of password policies; and a parameter to specify a set of characters utilizable to automatically generate a password (page 2-4, section 5.0 through 5.5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine a plurality of different password policies, as taught by Password Policy, with the method/computer system of Lineman et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because the policies taught by Password Policy reduce the risk of unauthorized access to servers and databases (see page 1, section 1.0 of Password Policy).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRANDON S. HOFFMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-3863. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser G. Moazzami can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2136

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brandon S Hoffman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2136